in the political, economic and cultural fields for the achievement of these objectives.

These tasks require greater exchange of information. The role of the Inter-Governmental Council of the Information Ministers of Nonaligned Countries is to promote such exchange. I am glad to know that the eighth meeting of the Council is being held in Dakar.

The Non-aligned Summit in New Delhi listed a number of specific measures to enable non-aligned countries to achieve media cooperation and the decolonization of information. We have called for a New International Information and Communication Order. I am confident that the Conference in Dakar will help our Movement. My best wishes for its success."

21. [*Transferred to the 3rd March 1986*]

Damage to wheat crop by weedicides

22. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK :
SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item appearing in the "Indian Express" on the 17th January, 1986 to the effect that some of the weedicides in the 75 per cent formulation groups caused considerable damage to the standing wheat crops in Punjab;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what action Government have taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Immediately after receiving the information, a team consisting of the experts from the Central Directorate of Plant Protection, Quarantine and Storage, the State Department of Agriculture, Punjab and Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana, was deputed to study the situation. The Team surveyed the areas of the wheat crop alleged to have been damaged due to application of weedicide (isoproturon 75% WP).

The team observed that the general condition of the wheat crop in the districts of Ludhiana and Ropar was very good and there was satisfactory control of *Phalaris minor* weeds to the advantage of the yield factor. There were no adverse reports from other districts, according to the State Government. Out of the total area of 15 lakh acres on which Isoproturon (the formulations 75% and 50% W.P.) had been used, damage was reported in about 150 acres partially. Weedicides were applied a few days before the rains on the 25th and 26th December, 1985 in these fields. Due to rains, weedicides were washed away with the rain water and the water stagnated in certain low lying patches which led to heavy concentration of pesticides resulting in localised damage to the crops. Similarly, some damage was caused to the wheat in sandy soils due to percolation of the rain water having high concentration of the weedicides to the root zone.

Partially even the affected crops recovered after a few days.

Nothing has been found wrong with the weedicides used.

Intensive fertiliser promotion campaign

23. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK :
SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA :

Will the Minister of AGRICUL-